

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2883

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 4653

DAKAR FOR RLO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ML

SUBJ: VISIT OF WFTU SECRETARY GENERAL TO MALI

REF: STATE 292498

1. SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF MALIAN WORKERS (UNTM), SEDOU DIALLO, JUST RETURNED FROM LOME AND ACCRA, TOLD EMBOFF DEC 15 THAT PIERRE GENSOUS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU) INCLUDED MALI ON A TRIP TO CONAKRY, ACCRA, AND LUSAKA WHERE HE WAS TO SPEND THREE WEEKS. GENSOUS' DEC 1-3 VISIT ISSUED FROM HIS PERSONAL REQUEST TO DIALLO WHO COULD NOT, HE SAID, HONORABLY REFUSE HOSPITALITY TO A FORMER COLLEAGUE. (DIALLO HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN THE WFTU MOVEMENT BEFORE HE BROKE AWAY TO HELP ORGANIZE AUTONOMOUS NATIONAL UNIONS IN GUINEA AND MALI.)

2. DIALLO SAID THAT DURING GENSOUS' VISIT THE UNTM CAREFULLY AVOIDED ANY COMMITMENT THAT WOULD IMPINGE ON
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ITS INDEPENDENCE. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT THE RADICAL

LANGUAGE OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE (BEING POUCHED TO ADDRESSES), DIALLO ADMITTED THAT SOME ITEMS HAD BEEN INCLUDED AT GENSOUS' INSISTENCE. THE REFERENCES TO CAPITALISM, FOR INSTANCE, WERE GRUDGINGLY INSERTED AFTER GENSOUS HARANGUED THE UNTM CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR OVER AN HOUR ON THE CAPITALIST "CRISIS". DIALLO SAID THE UNTM REALIZED THAT THE WFTU OFFERED NOTHING BUT IDEOLOGY AND IDEOLOGY DID NOT MEET THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIKE MALI. IDEOLOGY COULD NOT BE EATEN.

3. THE MAIN EVENT OF GENSOUS VISIT WAS A TRIP TO THE CHINESE-SPONSORED TEXTILE PLANT IN SEGOU WHERE GENSOUS MET REGIONAL UNION MEMBERS. THERE GENSOUS TYPICALLY CALLED FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE MPLA AND CONDEMNED IMPERIALIST EXPLOITATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. UNTM REGIONAL SECRETARY GENERAL DIAKITE, ON THE OTHER HAND, MERELY REFERRED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF EXCHANGE VISITS AND NOTED THAT A UNION OF LABOR MOVEMENTS WORLD-WIDE WAS DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE. DIALLO THEN TURNED HIS CONSIDERABLE RHETORICAL SKILLS TO AN ACCOUNT OF UNTM ACHIEVEMENTS. THERE WERE NO PROMISES OF ASSISTANCE. DIALLO TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE ONLY WAY THE UNTM WOULD GET MONEY OUT OF THE WFTU WOULD BE TO ORGANIZE A SEMINAR ON THE DECLINE OF FRENCH CAPITALISM.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH DIALLO IS UNDOUBTEDLY TRYING TO PUT THE BEST FACE ON GENSOUS' VISIT, THERE IS NO REASON TO DOUBT THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF HIS STORY. THE VISIT WAS NOTABLY LOW-KEY. IF GENSOUS HAD GICNN ASSISTANCE, DIALLO WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BRAGGED ABOUT IT AND ASKED FOR MORE AID FROM AMERICAN UNIONS. WHILE THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ASSOCIATES THE WFTU AND THE UNTM IN A VARIETY OF CAUSES, IT CAREFULLY UNDERSCORES THE INDEPENDENCE AND LIBERTY OF THE SEPARATE ORGANIZATIONS AND URGES GREATER COOPERATION AMONG ALL UNION ORGANIZATIONS. MOST POINTS OF THE COMMUNIQUE CONTAIN STANDARD THIRD-WORLD LANGUAGE TO WHICH THE UNTM AND THE MALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD SUBSCRIBE WITHOUT PRODDING FROM PIERRE GENSOUS.

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